(ii) Strengthening the security grid around the minority inhabited villages;

(iii) Increased frequency of patrolling, by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas;

(iv) Visits by State Government and security force officers to remote and minority villages.

After the incidents of Mehjoor Nagar, the State Government had further reviewed the security arrangements for minorities and remote and scattered populations. In addition there is a constant monitoring of the security situation by the respective Unified Headquarters level at Jammu & Srinagar as well as in Operations groups at various lower levels with a view to dynamic deployment and adoption of appropriate strategies by the security forces to meet the various challenges being thrown up by the terrorists. Government of India continues to provide support to the State Government and the security forces in their efforts.

Activities of Militant Organisations in Assam

3550. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Assam Tea majors funding ULFA and NDFB, say police" appearing in the Asian Age dated 18th March, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems raised in the newsitem so as to eliminate the activities of the militant organisations in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been sensitized for taking action against such militant outfits. Tea Companies have also been advised not to pay money to the militant organizations. The Government has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation in Assam under control. These include, *inter-alia*,

deployment of Para-military forces and army in the State, coordinated action by army, Para-military forces and State Police for counter insurgency operations, declaration of ULFA and NDFB as unlawful associaiton under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of Assam as "disturbed area" under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Government and modernisation/upgradation of State police Force. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

Abrogation of IMDT Act

3551. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in favour of abrogating the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that a dominant section of the minorities in Assam favours the retention of the IMDT Act for their safety and security;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the alternative system which would be put in place to safeguard the interests of the minorities in the event of the abrogation of IMDT Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is of the view that the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) IMDT Act 1983 in its application to State of Assam alone, it discriminatory. The main reasons of discrimination in the view of the Central Government, *inter-alia* are:

(i) Except Assam, the Foreigners Act, 1946 is applicable in the rest of the country for detection and deportation of foreigners (illegal migrants) staying unlawfully in the country.

(ii) Different laws cannot be applied for detection of same class of people depending merely on the place where they are detected;